

A. LESLIE, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE.—We cannot publish free, long obituary notices, resolutions of respect, &c. We charge a small amount to cover cost of setting up. Short notices will be published free.

Queen Victoria.

All the world will join Great Britain in mourning her aged sovereign, Victoria. Christianity has found in the good and virtuous English queen one of its strongest pillars in the State and in her own person one of its most notable exemplars. In her rule Queen Victoria has ever been just and moderate and ought that the world may have to complain of during her reign of sixty-three years has been due to circumstances over which the womanly monarch had little or no control, for, after all, she has been of necessity but a figurehead in the English government.

England and the world, however, have been the better for Victoria's reign, which in main and especially insofar as it bore the impress of her own personality has been the better for Christianity and civilization. Wherever cruelty, oppression and greed have dominated its policy it has been without her will. Pre-eminently has this been true in the matter of the South African war which not only never had the sanction of the Queen, but is credited with the responsibility for her break-down in health, the strain of that cruel situation being more than the good and motherly heart could bear.

Prince Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales, will ascend the throne as King Edward VII, with the eye of the world fixed upon him in keen and absorbing interest. He assumes the greatest crown in Christendom at a time when the affairs of Great Britain would seem to be nearing one of the most important crises of English history.

Our schools in Tazewell having troubles of their own, are not in condition, probably, to sympathize with Richmond College and South West Institute. Sometimes boys and girls are "hard to manage," sometimes too College Presidents don't know how to manage.

The Courier-Journal says Mr. Quay, instead of going to the penitentiary where he belongs, goes to the United States Senate. Quay's election should not have been possible in a State where Senators are elected by popular vote instead of by the Legislature.

One of the most wonderful things we have heard of this century is that a mayor of a Kansas town resigned because the Council was too pious. He called a meeting, and the members of the Council refused to leave a revival they were attending. The mayor got mad and resigned. The revivalist must be a wonderful man to thus influence a town Council, says the Richmond News.

When was a report of your county or town expenses published? The tax payers would no doubt like to know how they stand and they have a right to. It is doubtful, however, whether many of the officials themselves know.

The General Assembly of Virginia met on Wednesday in extra session. This is one of the most important meetings of that body which has been held for many years.

Ranoke Times, Jan. 20.—The creatures who were mixed up in the horrible death of the factory girl at Patterson, N. J., are to have thirty years each in the penitentiary. The country has looked forward to a hanging with a great deal of pleasure, but like themselves, it will have to take what it can get.

In criticising our remarks of last week on the Tell Tale Letter, some of our friends say that if Mr. Swanson is nominated we will "have to eat Crow." Eating Crow may not be bad if one is starving. Good people have been known to eat mule.

Not "Weakness."

There is where Mr. Echols' weakness lies. He has no machinery to back him up. He is not out in the sawdust with his coat off offering reward. Nor is he representing a faction. How can such a man hope to win, unless the unexpected should happen in the convention?

The above is taken from a strong editorial in the Roanoke Times, of a recent issue. "When Knighthood was in flower" in Virginia politics the high office of governor sought the man, and when these good times return such men as Mr. Echols can "hope to win."

The Ground-hog has lost his job. Few people will respect the prophet who couldn't see that it was unnecessary "to go to hole" this winter.

Every County in the State of Ohio has an Annual County Fair, and Ohio is one of the foremost States in the Union.

The school book fight is on again in the State. It is to be hoped that the histories which may be adopted this time will not only be truthful and up-to-date but free from political partisanship.

Tazewell.

(Cor. Bluefield Daily Advertiser.)
Tazewell, Va., Jan. 19.—The snow storm is being highly enjoyed by the small children and boys-sleighting and coasting being the rage now.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Harman returned today from a visit to Mrs. Harman's home people Roanoke.

Mrs. Kate Brittain, widow of the late John Brittain, reached town today from her home in Tennessee. She will be connected with the Thompson Valley High School. Mrs. Brittain has a host of friends in Tazewell, who are glad to have her among them again.

J. B. Boyer, who travels for a large Baltimore firm, and who has a fine store here, came in today to spend some time with Mrs. Boyer.

Mr. S. A. Sturm, wife and three children, of Davis, Va., reached Tip Top today on No. 15. Mr. Sturm is foreman for Robert Higby, a large lumber dealer on Tag River.

Prof. Sidney Brown, of the Graham High School, is spending a day or two at home with his people near Tip Top.

I. C. Dodd, who has charge of Walton's commissary department at Tip Top, is spending Saturday and Sunday with his family here.

Mrs. J. G. Bustin gave a delightful croquet party to a few specially invited guests one evening this week. A very delightful time was had all around.

AN ELEGANT RECEPTION.

Given by Governor Atkinson and His Wife.

The most elegant entertainment that has ever been witnessed in the Executive Mansion, was that which Governor and Mrs. Atkinson gave in honor of the members of the Legislature, and the incoming State officials. The large parlors of the mansion, as well as some of the smaller reception rooms were beautifully decorated with the finest exotic flowers, evergreens, roses, and vines of various kinds. The handsome home of the Governor was elegantly and tastefully lighted, and showed the best qualities of his valuable oil paintings. The receiving line was composed of Gov. and Mrs. Atkinson, General J. W. M. Appleton, and the present State officers and their wives. Governor elect, A. B. White, was present, and attracted much attention. He was the recipient of many very flattering compliments. An elegant orchestra was in attendance, and their music charmed the guests. The wealth and beauty of Charleston were there in great numbers. One thousand handsomely engraved invitations had been sent out all over the State. The reception was from 8 to 11 o'clock. Governor and Mrs. Atkinson are the most popular entertainers among Charleston's high society.

Five of West Virginia's governors were present, Wilson, Fleming, MacCorkle, Atkinson and White.

Senator Osenton has introduced a bill in the Legislature to exempt the property of all secret societies of the State from taxation. The measure has many friends and its passage is said to be almost certain.

Notice.

I have several acres of very desirable, fertile land on the Graham-Bluefield road, which I will sell as a whole, or in parcels to suit purchaser. Call on or address J. W. Hicks, Graham, Va. A. ST. CLAIR.

Setter's Rates West and North-West.

Norfolk and Western Railway
Tickets on sale Feb. 12th, 19th and 26th, March 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th, and April 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th, 1901, to Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.
For further information write to W. B. Bevil, M. F. Bragg, Gen. Pass. Agt., Trav. Pass. Agt., Roanoke, Virginia.

OUR BLUEFIELD LETTER.

TUESDAY.

M. E. Simmons and W. B. Walker, of Tazewell, are in the city.
W. G. Mustard, of Witten's Mills, was in the city Sunday.
Maxey G. Witten went to Dingess last night.
J. C. Mann returned last night from a visit to Monroe county.
Postmaster Martin and Judge Sanders are in Charleston.
Miss Mary Easley is convalescent.
Miss Maud Francis is reported quite ill.

A. C. Huffard, of Welch, spent Sunday here.
J. B. Boyer, of Tazewell, was in the city yesterday.

E. H. Sudduth, of Welch, was in the city Sunday.
Wm. H. McQuail, of Ennis, was in the city yesterday.

John B. Crawford, of Tazewell, was in the city yesterday.

Mayor Godfrey, of Bramwell, spent yesterday in the city.

Attorney A. H. Patton, of Welch, was in the city yesterday.

J. F. Jones, of Dexter, Russell county, was in the city Sunday.

Miss Janie Baldwin went to Pochontas last night to visit relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Hetherington, of Princeton, were in the city yesterday.

Miss Mae Baldwin, who has been critically ill of typhoid fever, is convalescing.

Mrs. Henry C. Stuart, of Rosedale, Va., was in the city last night en route to Lewisburg.

Abe Hyman, of Pochontas, was in the city yesterday on a visit to his brother, Sol J. Hyman.

Geo. T. Honaker, of Duhring, was in the city Sunday. Mr. Honaker has recently graduated in law.

Miss Harris, of Tazewell, was in the city en route to Panther, where she has accepted a position as stenographer for the Ritter Lumber Co.

Capt. Harman Newberry, the "cat-in-the-hat," of Bland, was in the city yesterday en route to Welch.

Mrs. S. M. Harvey, who has been visiting her brother, Dr. A. M. Brown, returned to Graham last night.

Rev. Peter C. Clark is at Princeton this week holding a series of meetings at the Presbyterian church. He will remain three or four days, preaching every night.

Capt. J. C. Gent and wife, of Lebanon, and State Senator R. P. Brant, of Wise, were in the city last night en route to Richmond. Capt. Gent is representative from Russell.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lynch, of Tazewell, were in the city last night en route to Richmond, where they will remain during the session of the Legislature. Mr. Lynch is Senate Clerk.

"Uncle" John Bowie, one of the most popular hotel clerks in the State, is quite ill at the Inn. He has not been well for several weeks and became much worse yesterday morning.

It was currently rumored last night that E. E. Godsey, the Union News salesman who has smallpox had died at six o'clock. There was no foundation for the rumor. The patient is improving and with careful nursing will soon be well.

There was a slight collision of trains yesterday morning near the Standard Oil Co.'s yards in the fireman like fields, of the Poca division, suffered a badly mangled foot. His foot was caught between the tender and engine. Mr. Fields was carried to his boarding house at Joseph Graham's where necessary attention is given to his comfort.

A murder occurred at Cooper Sunday, Robert Ferguson being the victim of the jealous rage of Philip Brown. They quarreled over a woman to whom they had been paying attention for some time. The tall entered Ferguson's back and penetrated the heart. Ferguson was running when shot. Brown was arrested by Edward Cooper, who turned him over to the authorities, and after an examination he was sent to jail at Princeton.

Both the men were employed by Walton & Co.

Mat Jones, another negro, was shot and seriously wounded Sunday by white man from Bramwell, whose name we are unable to learn. Scales was hit in the shoulder. Bad "licker" was the cause of the trouble.

Attorney H. A. Ritz, of this city, went to Bramwell yesterday to advise candidates for town councilman, and the recent election. The ticket had a majority of 15 on the face of the returns, but, as usual, there were a number of illegal votes, and on a demand of some of the citizens for a recount the council threw out all illegal votes and decided how they had voted according to rules of evidence. In case of a contest, in fact, they went through the form of a contest in canvassing the vote. This defeated candidates contended was irregular proceeding and they have taken the oath of office and will proceed to contest the right of the other council to act. The new council goes into office February 1st. As the old council has the certificate of election from the retiring council it will probably be recognized by Mayor Godfrey. The case is an interesting one.

There are now three cases of smallpox in Mercer county. Two of them are near Bramwell and the third one is in Bluefield. The Board of Health has taken every precaution to prevent a spread of the contagion and it is believed they have it under control. Our people have become accustomed to the disease during the past three years and the loss has never been any death directly due to it they have ceased to become excited over it. They are not so much afraid of it and yet no one wants it.

The trial of Dr. W. W. Dickie for the murder of Mrs. Maggie Caffee, which has been in trial at Princeton for over a week, came to an end Friday afternoon when the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty. This was the second trial, and as most of our readers remember, the first trial resulting in a verdict of second degree murder.

It is said that on the first trial Dr. Dickie did not realize the gravity of the charge, or rather the amount of circumstantial evidence against him and was not prepared for his defense. This time he contested every inch of ground and succeeded in explaining circumstances that pointed to his guilt.

The trial was very hotly contested, able counsel appearing on both sides of the case. The Doctor is receiving the congratulations of his friends.

Death of Mrs. B. P. Shumate. Mrs. B. P. Shumate, wife of Hon. B. P. Shumate, died at her home in Pipestem district, on Friday night last, aged about thirty-five years. She had been an invalid for several months. Mr. Shumate has the sympathy of many friends. —Hinton Herald.

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WEDNESDAY.

A. A. Adair, of Cashmere, was in the city yesterday.
A. G. McCue returned yesterday from an eastern trip.

Judge J. B. Greenwalt, of Welch, was in the city yesterday.

C. Bolce, and J. H. Mongle, of St. Paul, Va., are in the city.

Ex-Senator Mahood, of Princeton, visited Bluefield yesterday.

Mrs. H. B. Kitts is visiting friends at Princeton for a day or two.

Mrs. Edward Carper and Miss Maebel Rees left yesterday morning for Roanoke.

Superintendent N. D. Maher returned yesterday from a visit to his family at Washington.

J. L. Baker returned from Tazewell last night, after making arrangements for Dr. Hall's lecture.

There will be a "Calico Carnival" at the Baptist P. O. next Tuesday night, the 29th inst. It promises to be a unique affair.

Mrs. J. D. Honaker, of Rocky Gap, accompanied her husband to Richmond, where she will enter a hospital for a few weeks in the hope of restoring her health, which has been poor for some time.

Hon. Joseph S. Moss, the "Tall Sycamore" of Tazewell, Senator Alex St. Clair, of the same county; Delegates Rufus A. Ayers, Jr., of Wise and Col. Henry C. Stuart of Russell, were passengers on 16 yesterday en route to Richmond where the Legislature convenes this morning.

It is interesting to note the fact that Mercer county was formed by the Legislature of Virginia in 1837, the same year that Queen Victoria ascended the throne of England. How many citizens of Mercer county now living can remember when this territory was either a part of Tazewell or Giles?

Messrs. Ballard P. Huff, J. B. Andrews and Frank B. Thomas, of Roanoke, arrived in the city yesterday to attend a meeting of the Huff, Andrews & Thomas Co. These gentlemen are among the most progressive in this section of the country and Bluefield is fortunate to have them interested here.

Rev. John F. Stone has decided to accept the call of the Christian church at Huntington and will begin his pastorate there on the fifth of February. He has tendered his resignation to the congregation here, which has been accepted with deep regret, and not only his church but the entire religious community regret that his connection with this church is so soon to be severed. Mr. Stone has been here about two years and a half and during his ministry there have been about one hundred and seventy additions to the congregation while the collections have multiplied several hundred per cent. Bluefield is the banner church of the two Virginias in missionary offerings.

Mr. Stone's success is due in some measure to the excellent little newspaper he issues every month, The Bluefield Messenger—and we learn from him that the election of delegates will occur at the Spring election, the fourth Thursday in May. The convention will hardly consist of more than 100 members, which is the size of the House of Delegates, in fact, which the body will meet. The convention will draft an entirely new Constitution. The suffrage question and that of limiting the number of offices will be the most interesting ones to be dealt with. An earnest effort will be made to reduce the cost of the government and the criminal expenses of the State.

One of the first things done by the Legislature will be to elect a successor to the late John W. Riley as Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals. The friends of Judge Philagar, Governor Tyler's appointee, seem to feel confident that he will be elected, but as to this there is absolutely no certainty. The claims of Judges Mann, Whittle and Phillips are being strongly urged and probably he will not win. Senator George W. Morris will have to be re-elected Judge of the Corporation Court through this session and then resign.

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VERDICT FOR \$8,000. In the circuit court at Roanoke yesterday a verdict was rendered in favor of the administrator of Percy Cromer vs. the Norfolk & Western railway for \$8,000. Cromer was killed at Pullaski on the 8th day of last January.

His death was caused by an open switch. Cromer left a wife to whom he had been married but a short time. He married Clara, the sixteen year-old daughter of engineer Jacob A. Bowles, formerly of this city, and she will come in for a handsome share of the recovery.

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VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

EXTRA SESSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The Constitutional Convention—A Division of Sentiment as to Allowing General Legislation.

Richmond, Va., January 21.—The General Assembly of Virginia will meet next Wednesday at noon in extraordinary session. One or two members are already here. Several will come tomorrow, and nearly all of them will be here a day or two in advance. The session promises to be the most interesting held since the exciting days of readjustment, when the late General William Mahone came to the front as the most important factor in Virginia politics. The Legislature is convened for the specific purpose of arranging for the Constitutional Convention, which the people have ordered to be held to revise the organic law of the State. The time and place for holding the convention will be fixed and the basis of representation will be decided upon. It is an open question how much of the constitution will be undertaken. There will be, as usual, a great number of private bills, and there is such a division of sentiment with regard to allowing general legislation to be considered as to make it impossible to forecast what will be done.

The proceedings of the extra session will be of special interest because of the bearing they will have on the work of the Constitutional Convention. The prevailing opinion is that the majority shall only have 100 or 110 members at most, and in the natural order of things a large percentage of these will be members of the Legislature. Nearly all of the Senators and delegates have an ambition to sit in the convention, and a large percentage of the law-makers will be sent there. The people are anxious to have business and professional men of ability who are not identified with party politics or the State government in the convention, but there will hardly be more than a mere sprinkling of these. Lawyers and law-makers will undoubtedly dominate the body. The question of the extra session will be that of restricting the number of delegates, who control and direct the Executive forces of the State will in all likelihood dictate the line upon which the convention shall deal with this matter.

The extra session may be quite a short one, or it may extend over the full constitutional period of forty-five days for which the members are paid whether they serve one week or more and a half. This will depend upon whether general legislation is taken up or not. An effort will be made to settle this question as soon as the caucus meets. If the bars are let down, the session's work will be confined to the election of delegates for the convention and the preparation of private bills adjustment may be reached in two or three weeks. The chances at this writing seem to favor the longer session.

Personal expressions and letters received here from perhaps half the members of the General Assembly indicate that the convention will be held in June and that the election of delegates will occur at the Spring election, the fourth Thursday in May. The convention will hardly consist of more than 100 members, which is the size of the House of Delegates, in fact, which the body will meet. The convention will draft an entirely new Constitution. The suffrage question and that of limiting the number of offices will be the most interesting ones to be dealt with. An earnest effort will be made to reduce the cost of the government and the criminal expenses of the State.

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MERCER CRIMINAL COURT.

Reed Acquitted—Jones Admitted to Bail.

The trial of John Reed for the murder of Sheriff White ended yesterday in a verdict of acquittal. The jury thought Reed was justifiable in main.

Reed thought White meant to harm him and his life was in peril and was justified in defending himself. Mr. Whites intention, unfortunately, was misunderstood by Reed.

The trial of C. F. Jones for forgery was continued until next term. Capt. E. L. Bailey, one of the men whose name was forged, going on Jones' bond. Such kindness of heart is unusual.

There are a number of other felony cases yet on the docket.

Reassessment.

The bill authorizing a reassessment of real estate in Mercer and Tyler counties has been favorably reported by committee of the House of Delegates and it is confidently expected that Mercer county will get a reassessment this year. It is badly needed. There is no equity in the present assessment some being assessed at three or four times its value and other property assessed at a merely nominal sum.

Deaths in Monroe.

Wm. Pritt, an old Confederate soldier, was found dead in his bed last Friday night at his home near Union.

Thomas Phillips, the father of Mrs. L. A. Dunn, whose death was mentioned in Wednesday's edition of this paper, was 67 years old. He was a member of Edgar's Battalion and served through the civil war. He was a member of the Methodist church and a highly esteemed citizen.

J. Wm. Lee, a prominent citizen of Second Creek district, died Wednesday morning, of paralysis, aged 56 years.

E. L. Bondurant died Monday, of typhoid fever, aged 23 years.

\$100,000.00 Bond.

Hinton, W. Va., Jan. 19.—The Flat Top Coal Land Association gave bond in the sum of \$100,000 before Circuit Clerk Boudie this week in the case of W. P. Cecil and others vs. E. W. Clark, et al., trustees, for a supersedeas and appeal.

This will make the third time the case has been appealed to the Supreme Court. The decree at the special term of our circuit court was in favor of the Chapman heirs and Mrs. Sarah E. Torbett for \$86,000, hence the appeal.

The cost in this case from